GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:795
ANSWERED ON:21.11.2016
Tea Garden Workers
Chudasama Shri Rajeshbhai Naranbhai;Kumar Dr. Virendra ;Marutharajaa Shri R.P.

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a)whether the Government has received any request/representation from tea garden workers for increasing their wages and if so, the details thereof and the response of the Government thereto;
(b)whether the labourers working in the tea gardens get wages as per the Plantation Act;
(c)if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor along with the corrective steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard;
(d)whether tea garden workers in the country are reportedly getting very low wages and are deprived of social security cover and if so, the reasons therefor and the reaction of the Government thereto; and
(e)the various welfare schemes being implemented by the Government for tea garden workers in the country including Assam?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (IC) FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA)
(a): Various representations from the tea garden workers' unions for increase in wages and social security cover are being received from time to time. The last representation was received on 26th July, 2016 highlighting the conditions of Tea Garden Workers at Dumchipara Tea Garden in West Bengal.
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(b) to (d): The tea plantation workers in all the plantation States are paid wages as per the negotiated agreement reached through a process of collective bargaining between the Producer Associations and Workers Unions under the aegis of the respective State Governments. The current rate of Wages in Tea gardens in different States in the country is given in Annexure. Apart from that some other fringe benefits like food grains, dry tea, fuel etc. are also given to the workers.
The workers of tea plantation are covered under various Social Security Acts like Workmen's Compensation Act, Payment of Gratuity Act, Provident Fund & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, (Assam Tea Plantation Provident Fund, Pension Fund and Deposit Link Insurance Fund Scheme Act 1955 − only for Assam) and Maternity Benefit Act.
(e): The Plantations Labour Act, 1951 provides for regulation of the conditions of work in tea plantations and the welfare measures for the workers employed in tea plantations. Further the plantation workers of organized sector who are engaged in established tea estates may avail the benefits of different welfare activities of Tea Board under the ongoing HRD scheme during the 12th Plan period including the State of Assam. For the welfare of unorganized workers in plantations, the Government has approved Educational stipend for school/technical degrees/vocational courses etc. under the Small Tea Growers Development Scheme of Tea Board implemented during the ongoing 12th Plan period. Apart from that, Group Insurance has been implemented for the benefit of the workers of small tea growers in the event of death or any disablement for coverage of Rs. 2 lakhs with a nominal premium of Rs.14/- per person.

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